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THE ALPHABET OF BEN SIRA.

ΣΟΦΙΑ ΣΕΙΡΑΧ LI. 13-29 from *The Old Testament in Greek according to the Septuagint*, H. B. Swete, D.D. (II, 753 f., Camb., 1896), with the letters of Ben Sira's Alphabet assigned conjecturally to their places in relation to the Greek.

- Ν 13 ἔτι ὦν νεώτερος πρὶν ἢ πλανηθῆναι με,
 ἐζήτησα σοφίαν προφανῶς ἐν προσευχῇ μου·
 Ϟ 14 ἐναντι ναοῦ ἡξίουں περὶ αὐτῆς,
 καὶ ἔως ἐσχάτων ἐκζητήσω αὐτήν.
 ϡ 15 ἐξ ἄνθους ὥς περκαζούσης σταφυλῆς
 εὐφράνθη ἡ καρδία μου ἐν αὐτῇ·
 Γ 16 ἐπέβη ὁ πούς μου ἐν εὐθύτητι,
 ἐκ νεότητός μου ἵχνευον αὐτήν.
 Π 17 ἐκλίνα ὀλίγον τὸ οὖς μου καὶ ἐδεξάμην,
 καὶ πολλὴν εὖρον ἔμαυτῷ παιδεῖαν·
 Ϛ 18 προκοπὴ ἐγένετό μοι ἐν αὐτῇ·
 τῷ διδόντι μοι σοφίαν δώσω δόξαν.
 ϛ 19 διανοήθην γὰρ τοῦ ποιῆσαι αὐτήν,
 καὶ ἐξήλωσα τὸ ἀγαθόν, καὶ οὐ μὴ αἰσχυρθῶ.
 ϙ 20 διαμεμάχισται ἡ ψυχὴ μου ἐν αὐτῇ,
 καὶ ἐν ποιήσει λιμοῦ διηκριβασάμην·
 Ϟ τὰς χεῖράς μου ἐξεπέτασα πρὸς ὕψος,
 * * * * *
 Ϛ * * * * *
 καὶ τὰ ἀγνοήματα αὐτῆς ἐπένθησα·
 ϡ 21 τὴν ψυχὴν μου κατεύθυνα εἰς αὐτήν,
 * * * * *
 ϛ καρδίαν ἐκτησάμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς,
 καὶ ἐν καθαρισμῷ εὖρον αὐτήν·
 διὰ τοῦτο οὐ μὴ ἐγκαταλειφθῶ.

- 21 καὶ ἡ κοιλία μου ἐταράχθη ἐκζητῆσαι αὐτήν·
 διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτησάμην ἀγαθὸν κτήμα.
 22 ἔδωκεν Κύριος γλῶσσάν μοι μισθόν μου,
 καὶ ἐν αὐτῇ αἰνέσω αὐτόν.
 23 Ἐγγίσατε πρὸς μέ, ἀπαιδευτοί,
 καὶ αὐλίσθητε ἐν οἴκῳ παιδείας.
 24 καὶ ὅτι ὑστερεῖσθαι λέγετε ἐν τούτοις,
 καὶ αἱ ψυχαὶ ὑμῶν διψῶσι σφόδρα,
 25 ἤνοιξα τὸ στόμα μου καὶ ἐλάλησα
 Κτήσασθε αὐτοῖς ἀνευ ἀργυρίου·
 26 τὸν τράχηλον ὑμῶν ὑπόθετε ὑπὸ ζυγόν,
 καὶ ἐπιδεξάσθω ἡ ψυχὴ ὑμῶν παιδεῖαν·
 27 ἐγγύς ἐστιν εὐρεῖν αὐτήν.
 * * * * *
 27 Ἴδετε ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς ὑμῶν ὅτι ὀλίγον ἐκοπίασα,
 καὶ εὗρον ἐμαυτῷ πολλὴν ἀνάπανσιν.
 28 μετάσχετε παιδεῖαν ἐν πολλῷ ἀριθμῷ ἀργυρίου,
 καὶ πολλὸν χρυσὸν κτήσασθε ἐν αὐτῇ·
 29 εὐφρανθείη ἡ ψυχὴ ὑμῶν ἐν τῷ ἐλέει αὐτοῦ,
 καὶ μὴ αἰσχυνθείητε ἐν αἰνέσει αὐτοῦ.

C. TAYLOR.

[NOTE.—The Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, delivered a public lecture on November 2, 1904, in which the above arrangement of the Alphabet was presented. The full text of the lecture will eventually appear in the *Journal of Philology*. Dr. Taylor has also reconstructed the Hebrew (on the basis of the Cambridge MS., with important conjectural emendations) and has come to the general conclusion that the Hebrew is not a retranslation from the Syriac. The Hebrew text, however, he regards as corrupt. Dr. Taylor made the suggestion that in the Hebrew the 21 line begins כפִּי מַמְחִי לַמְרוֹם; the 22 line with זַמְמִתִּי (synonymous emendation for חֲשַׁבְתִּי); and the 23 line אֲלִי הַסִּכְלִים סִרְוִי (סִרְוִי synonymous emendation of פָּנוּ, cf. Bickell).

ED. J. Q. R.]